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RICE CAUTIONS NORTH KOREA AGAINST DEEPENING ITS ISOLATION

No need for nuclear weapons on Korean Peninsula, she says

North Korea will only deepen its international isolation if it drops out of the Six-Party Talks and continues its nuclear weapons programs, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

During a February 10 interview with RTL TV of the Netherlands, Rice said U.S. officials have yet to examine a North Korean announcement that it has nuclear weapons and plans to pull out of the Six-Party Talks with South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and the United States on a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula.

If North Korea makes good on its promise, it will only deepen its isolation, she said, "because everyone in the international community, and most especially North Korea's neighbors, has been very clear that there needs to be no nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula in order to maintain stability in that region."

Rice reiterated President Bush's assurances that the United States has no hostile intent against North Korea, and that, if Pyongyang agrees to end its nuclear weapons programs, it could have multilateral security assurances.

The secretary, who is in Europe to bolster relations with U.S. allies, acknowledged the "difficult period" created by U.S. actions in Iraq, but said there is "a common desire for the spread of freedom and liberty

and also a common desire for the spread of prosperity and peace.” Cooperation never faltered on issues such as combating terrorism, nonproliferation, and law enforcement and intelligence sharing, she said.

Regarding Iraq, Rice said she was “very heartened” when talking to NATO leaders about their readiness to train Iraqi security forces. “Now that Iraq is writing its own political future, we look forward to training their security forces,” she said.

On relations between the Israelis and Palestinians, Rice said Americans and Europeans are “clearly united in how we move forward in encouraging the parties, in helping the Palestinians to get to the point that they can fight terrorism effectively, in supporting the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza and the four settlements in the West Bank and then trying to get back on the Roadmap.”

Regarding the nurturing of democracies, Rice pointed to the progress made by the government of Pakistan, which has worked to control extremists and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Saudi Arabia, she noted, has had its first municipal elections. “These are places,” she said, “that are a part of a larger dialogue, now, a larger conversation, about the need for reform, the need of openness politically.”

U.S. PLEDGES MORE FUNDING TO TSUNAMI RELIEF, WARNING SYSTEM

Plans for early warning system include global seismic stations

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

(This is part three of a four-part series on the elements of a tsunami early warning system.)

Washington - The Bush administration is working to boost the U.S. financial pledge to help Indian Ocean nations recover from the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunami, officials announced February 9. President Bush plans to seek congressional support for \$950 million in assistance, up from the \$350 million commitment the nation made in January.

Officials announcing the increased commitment said \$35 million of that amount will help the nations of the region implement an early warning system that might help prevent the tremendous loss of life that has so devastated the region in the aftermath of the December 2004 event.

The announcement comes as international plans for the system are taking shape, with the goal of putting such a warning scheme in place in the region by mid-2006.

A January 28-29 ministerial meeting in Phuket, Thailand, resulted in the Declaration on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements. That declaration calls for regional and international cooperation in development of the system. The International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the 59-nation, U.S.-led Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) are two wide-ranging efforts to develop such systems.

SEISMIC MONITORING

A critical element of GEOSS and any early warning system for tsunami and other disasters involves seismology -- the study of earthquakes and seismic waves that move through and around the earth.

Seismic waves are waves of energy caused by the sudden motion of rock in the Earth or an explosion. They are the energy that travels through the earth and is recorded on seismographs.

There are several kinds of seismic waves that all move in different ways. The two main wave types are body waves and surface waves. Body waves travel through the Earth's inner layers; surface waves move along the planet's surface like ripples on water. Earthquakes radiate seismic energy as body and surface waves.

The U.S. Global Seismographic Network (GSN) operates 137 stations to monitor the pulse of the planet, distributed uniformly from the South Pole to the Amazon Basin. GSN is operated by the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) in the United States and funded jointly by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

According to GSN program manager Rhett Butler, the GSN “was designed to record all of the Earth's signals, from the smallest earthquakes to the greatest earthquakes on scale and all the time, continuously. The network has

many purposes -- not only for tsunami warning but for research or any other purpose.”

Each GSN station is in principle a seismometer, which measures the Earth’s vibrations.

“It measures vibration and that is recorded by a computer that turns the signal, which is a voltage, into digital bits and bites,” Butler said. “Then it talks standard Internet protocols -- TCP/IP [transmission control protocol/Internet protocol] over ethernet [computer network hardware] or satellite links or Internet -- and sends data to data centers, to people who request the data or to the tsunami warning center.

“Or,” he added, “you can get on the computer and get it yourself -- <http://www.iris.edu/> --and follow the ‘data’ links to real-time data feeds.”

All GSN data are freely and openly available to anyone at any time, he said. The network is extensively used as a primary source of data for tsunami warning by the United States and many other countries.

Stations are installed in a variety of places. Some seismometers are placed in holes drilled 100-150 meters into the Earth. Some are in vaults, which can be rooms, caves or mines. Only one GSN seismic station is on the seafloor - at the bottom of the ocean between Hawaii and California, connected to land by an undersea telephone cable.

“Down at the South Pole we have seismometers that are drilled into the ice because the ice is a couple of kilometers thick there,” Butler said. “In different parts of the world, you have to deal with what’s there. Sometimes you’re on bedrock, which is preferable, but whether you’re on ice or coral, you have to record the vibrations that you can.

“I like to think of it as a vigilant sentinel that’s always there,” he said.

About 85 percent of the 137 GSN stations operate in real time, which means they collect and transmit data automatically. Other stations collect data but must be contacted (dialed up) via modem or other means to allow download of data.

GSN operating costs are about \$6 million a year - \$3.5 million from USGS and \$2.5 million from NSF.

On January 14, the Bush administration earmarked \$37 million for a plan to expand U.S. tsunami detection and warning capabilities as part of GEOSS.

Some of that money will go to improve GSN seismic sensor data and infrastructure for better earthquake detection and warning, including putting more stations online.

According to an article in the February 8 issue of Eos, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, the December 26, 2004, South Asian subduction zone rupture was the first full-scale test of GSN technical design goals, which scientists set more than 20 years ago.

Seismic waves from the 9.0-magnitude Sumatra earthquake reached a monitoring station in Sri Lanka within four minutes and caused needles on thousands of seismometers worldwide to jump within 21 minutes.

Author Jeffrey Park of Yale University and his colleagues noted that, with the network now online and the planned addition of more seismograph locations to the system, strong seismic events in the future can be continuously monitored in unprecedented detail from the instant the first signals arrive at monitoring stations.

Such direct observations could allow scientists to quickly determine the magnitude of an event and its precise location in near real time, the authors wrote.

Looking ahead, GSN’s Butler said, “the real goal at this point to improve global coverage is to work with the oceanographic community to get stations on the seafloor . . . Ideally,” he said, “we would like to have the kind of coverage on the ocean floor that we have on land -- so maybe double the size of our network.

“That will take quite a while because it’s difficult to do things in the ocean. If we had 100 stations on the sea floor I think people would say we had pretty good coverage,” Butler added.

Part four of this series on the elements of a tsunami early warning system will examine international cooperation in seismic monitoring and the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

Information about the Global Seismographic Network is available at <http://www.iris.edu/about/GSN/>

U.S. GRANT SUPPORTS INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN MEDIA

Television show to focus on civic responsibility

The U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) has issued a \$675,000 grant to support the production of a Palestinian television news program focusing on civic responsibility and gender equality, according to a State Department media note.

The media note also gave details about another MEPI grant in October 2004 to support English language training in Palestinian schools.

Following is the text of the media note from the State Department:

Office of the Spokesman
February 10, 2005

U.S. Department of State Award Supports Independent Palestinian Media

The Middle East Partnership Initiative is pleased to announce an award of \$675,000 in support of Palestinian independent media and the bi-weekly production and broadcast of a television news magazine. The series, which will be carried on eleven independent networks, will focus on peaceful political participation, social responsibility, and gender equality. Non-profit organization Search for Common Ground will administer the award.

In October, another grant was given to the Educational Testing Service to develop and implement an English as a Second Language curriculum in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the Arab American University Jenin. University faculty will conduct interviews to select lead teachers and begin to schedule teacher training. An English as a Second Language curriculum is being developed specifically for Palestinian students as a result of this grant.

The Middle East Partnership Initiative is a Presidential initiative that supports political, economic and educational reform efforts in the Middle East and expanded opportunity for all people of the region, especially women and youth. More information can be found at <http://MEPI.state.gov>.

2006 DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY RECEIVES 6.3 MILLION ENTRIES

Winning entrants will be notified by mail between May and July

Over 6.3 million entries for the 2006 Diversity Visa Lottery were received during the two-month electronic registration period, from November 5, 2004, through January 7, according to the U.S. Department of State.

The program, designed to bring greater racial and ethnic diversity to the United States, offers permanent residency visas to citizens of nations that have a traditionally low level of immigration to the United States. The State Department will notify winning entrants by mail between May and July, and issue 50,000 permanent residency visas.

According to a February 10 State Department media note, there have been several instances of groups or individuals attempting to defraud diversity visa lottery entrants. The note states that winners will be notified by the Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center, and that no other organization or company is authorized to notify diversity visa lottery entrants of their winning entry.

The note adds that anti-fraud technology used for the 2006 lottery detected 31,334 duplicate applications, and that an additional 5,221 fraudulent entries were eliminated through the use of facial recognition and knowledge discovery software.

Following is the text of the media note:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
February 10, 2005

2006 Diversity Visa Lottery Registrations

Over 6.3 million entries for the 2006 Diversity Visa Lottery were received during the two-month electronic registration period, from noon on November 5, 2004, through noon January 7, 2005.

The electronic registration process continues to increase the Department's ability to screen against duplicate and other fraudulent entries. Anti-fraud technology in use for the 2006 Diversity Visa Lottery detected 31,334 exact

duplicates, which were then eliminated from the eligible entry pool. An additional 5,221 entries were eliminated through the utilization of facial recognition and knowledge discovery software.

In response to demand for electronic lottery registration, the Department tripled the number of servers hosting the registration website for the 2006 lottery. In addition, persons submitting entries to the 2006 lottery received a notice of receipt containing the name, date of birth, and country of chargeability for the registrant, as well as a time/date stamp when entries had been successfully registered.

The number of winning entries by country of chargeability will be available later this year, after the random lottery process is complete.

There have been several instances of groups or individuals attempting to defraud Diversity Visa Lottery entrants. Lottery entrants selected as winners in the Diversity Visa random drawing are notified by the Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center. No other organization or company is authorized by the Department of State to notify Diversity Visa Lottery entrants of their winning entry.

Notification of winning entries will be sent to the winning entrants by mail only between May and July 2005 and will provide further instructions, including information on fees connected with immigration to the United States.

STATE DEPT. ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CONSULAR SERVICES

New fees for diversity visa lottery, immigrant visas to take effect March 8

The U.S. Department of State announced February 10 new fees for a variety of consular services performed at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad.

The following media note explains the new fees to take effect March 8:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
February 10, 2005

Revision of Schedule of Fees for Consular Services

The U.S. Department of State has revised the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services. The new schedule will be effective March 8, 2005, at which time the fees for certain services provided by the Department of State and by U.S. embassies and consulates abroad will change.

The Department is required by law and regulation to recover the actual costs of providing most consular services through user fees. To comply, the fees for consular services are adjusted periodically following cost-of-service studies conducted by independent contractor under the supervision of the Department. The last major revision of the Schedule of Fees was in 2002.

The revised Schedule of Fees for Consular Services also reflects new surcharges authorized in the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Recovering the actual cost of providing consular services is essential to maintaining and improving high-quality customer service, utilizing advances in information technology and enhancing the security features of the consular function of border security.

The Schedule of Fees for Consular Services revisions resulting from the recent cost-of service study include:

-- An increase in the Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery surcharge for diversity immigrant visa applications from \$100 to \$375;

-- An increase in the passport file search fee from \$45 to \$60; and,

-- A reduction in the fee charged for issuance of a transportation letter for Legal Permanent Resident Aliens (LPRA) to reenter the U.S. from abroad from \$300 to \$165.

Additional revisions in the new Schedule of Fees resulting from the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act and include:

-- A surcharge of \$12 to be added to current passport fees;

-- A surcharge of \$45 to be added to the current fees for immigrant visas; and,

-- A \$500 "fraud prevention and detection fee" for persons applying for L-1 visas under "blanket" provisions abroad.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 also mandated a "fraud prevention and detection fee" to be charged for H-1B and L-1 principal applicants at time of petition filing or change of employer. These fees are not reflected in the new Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, as they will be collected by the Department of Homeland Security.

Pleases Note: Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: www.usmission.ch

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